Some Remarks Upon His Manners and Customs by an Admirer Who Regards His Intelligence as Unri-

valled and Has Studied Him. (Philadelphia Times.) Americans are very proud of their country, and are given to much boasting

concerning its achievements and possibilities, but many of them would have pleaded guilty to sad lack of knowledge oncerning-well, say, the natural products of the land. The average citizen will grow somewhat enthusiastic in the presence of such a foreign quadruped as the elephant or lion, and regard with indifference a creature like the opossum that is indigenous to the soil and can doubly discount either of the creatures named in intelligence. It is doubtful if there can be found in all animate creation another animal which can present so many features that are interesting, quaint, and pleasing as the awkwardgaited, gray marsupial known as the Virginia opossum. The fact that it is a native and to the manner born ought not to detract from its merit. Its title to distinction is unquestioned, because in all permutations and transmutations which other creatures around have undergone in the last thousand of yearschanges so great as to make it difficult for the scientist to trace the origins of many of them—the operature living in the paleolithic age was identical with its posterity, which now find pleasure in devouring the esculent persimmen of the southern woods. To be sure, it is deemed somewhat un-American to boast of one's ancestry; yet surely it is permissible, in writing of dumb creatures at least, to refer with a measure of pride to their pedigree. Those who write a native and to the manner born ought at least, to refer with a measure pride to their pedigree. Those who write scientificall upon the American and English race-horses are not as certain as they would have their readers believe when they affect to find the origieve when they affect to find the origi-al of the thoroughbred.

Mr. Darwin was very certain that our ommon tomcat may be traced to the

common tomcat may be traced to the Egyptian feline, mummified corpses o Egyptian feeline, muminined corpses which are so common in the tombs of the Nile country. Yet so eminent an authority as he fained to impress his convictions upon all his scientific readers. Never has there been a man who has Never has there been a man who has been able to his entire satisfaction to follow the faithful dog to its origin. There is no trouble on this score with the coossum. In its persistence to type it has laughed at and defied all the attacks of variation. Evolution has had no tharm for it. Confers have given way lacks of variation. Evolution has had no tharm for it. Conifers have given way to primitive trees; simplest of flowers have developed into gorgeous blossoms of beauty; harmless and herbivorous marbuplais have been transmurified into ravening wolves, predaceous cats, or growling bears, casting off their pouches and becoming higher-typed mammals. The opossum observed these various changes and developments with manifest unconcern, opposing its intelligence to the

and developments with manifest unconcern, opposing its intelligence to the
ferocity that developed with change of
cell-structure in the creatures about it.
After nearly half a century of study
of the creatures of the field and wood
and deep waters. I am still of the mind
that impressed me a quarter of a century
ago, that, the dog and horse excepted,
the opossum is the most intelligent brute
tupon the face of the earth.

THE DISMAL SWAMP

IN THE DISMAL SWAMP. Once while I was botanizing in the Dismal Swamp of Virginia I was attracty the sharp barking of a dog, suspecting the cause, approached ously to the spot whence the sound eded. Careful, lest I break a twig rustle a leaf, I moved slowly along ntil before me, not many feet away, was weary and somewhat disgusted-looka weary and somewhat disgusted-looking cur that was springing in the air at intervals and vainly attempting to reach a cute-looking 'possum, which had tantalizingly enscenced itself about six inches above the possibility of reach of the jaws of the canine. Presenting myself to view, almost instantly the 'possum betook himself to the remotest branch of the lofty, tree, where, hiding in the thickest cluster of leaves it held on with might cluster of leaves, it held on with might and main by claw and prehensile tail. The intelligence of the creature had discerned, in the first place, that the dog had no master with it, and, conscious of its safety, had taken a bit of old-fash-ioned fun out of its would-be tormentor. In the more than thousand and one hunts of the opossum in which I have parti-cipated, I never knew an instance in which it failed to display high intelligence which it failed to display high any holin finding hiding-places—through any hollow and tree and away—fleeling to the latter and invariably going out to the very the most remote branch. This ability to discern between the presence of a hunter with his dog and the dog alone is in itself an evidence of a no mean order of reason, especially when it is remembered that many hunters of the possum train their dogs to pursue it without the encouragement of the voice. It is commonly known in the opossum intries that the creature has very little countries that the creature has very fitted lear of the dog, and manifestly finds plea-sure in teasing and tormenting it, easily getting beyond its reach, and tan-

easily getting beyond its reach, and tantalizing the canine until the latter becomes faint with hunger and fatigue.

It should be explained that the meat of the oposeum is juicy, rich, highly palatable, and an object of almost universal desire by the negroes and poor whites of the South, who pursue the creature unremittingly during the winter months, at which time only it is in condition to be edible. Because it is an omniverous animal, eating all kinds of objectionable as well as pleasing foodstuffs, it is as well as pleasing foodstuffs, it is deemed necessary by the hunter that it shall be captured alive and subjected to a cleansing and additional fattening, perhaps, before it is served as food. Hence it is that the hunter almost invariably climbs the tree with the object of shaking the opossum out into the receptive arms of a man beneath. I can testify from numerous experiences that the opossum excels the monkey even in its tenacity of hold upon the branch of a tree. Its very prehensile and nearly hairless tail, and its excellent thumb set well opposite to four additional clinging digits, give it power that will call into exercise the est efforts of a strong man to dislodge it.

NOCTURNAL HABITS. creature is nocturnal in its habits, waiting for the cover of the darkness to waiting for the cover of the darkness to saily forth in quest of food, the quality of which in no wise concerns it. If it be unacquainted with the dwelling-place of a toothsome squirrel or the nest of a mocking-bird full of fresh-laid eggs it will just as contentedly burrow for an esculent root or gather berries from friendly bushes. From immemorial time it has affected the persimmon-tree, to the propagation of which it has lent its best energies, and unquestionably but for the kind offices of this prudential creature the persimmon would have ceased to exist in the land. The habitat of the two is coincident, the opersum appearing to thrive only where the persimmon grows, and the latter presents the same anomaly as the former—namely, in all the vegetable transmutations ly, in all the vegetable transmutations it has preserved its form and structure and repeated its fruit without any change whatsoever in the thousands and thousands of years. It is doubtful if there be any sort of food upon the face of the earth, vegetable or animal, that the opossum will reject. The chicken can never roost too high for the marsupial, which is not only adroit but remarkably quick in seizing this kind of prey, so that it has frequently been known to make a foray upon a colony of hens within close proximity to the chamber of a good wife without causing any clutter among the feathered folk or arousing the woman from her slumber. Because of this covert and highly successful mode of attack the human habitants of a farm exercise all manner of ingenuity in setting traps for the didelphis, with greater or less success, usually the latter.

Herein I am not indorsed by certain aturalists, who insist that the opossum,

while very cunning; in many respects while very cunning; in many respects
shows stupidity in falling into human
pitfalls and snares. Born and reared
among these creatures, and a close student of their habits through many years.
I insist that the naturalist is altogether
wrong. Accustomed to snaring all manner of birds and beasts, I know that the opossum is the most wary, crafty, and altogether most successful creature in evading the results of human intelligence directed against it of all animals of the American woods. American woods.

SPIN HIM UP.

SPIN HIM UP.

The opossum while roaming about upon the ground moves slowly and awkwardly, but let the sharp cry of a dog be heard upon its trail, and, as though spurred by an electrical shock, it moves forward with great rapidity, though still in an ungainly manner, taking advantage of various methods well known to itself for breaking the continuity of its scent. It will climb friendly alder and gall bushes, mass along them for a few rods, mount a will climb friendly alder and gall bushes, pass along them for a few rods, mount a tree, pass from one to another by means of interlapping branches, and descend again to the ground, only to make forward and increase the distance between it and its pursuer. When the yelps of the dog may not be distanced it will betake itself to a tree, and if the dog be accompanied by its master, seeks, as previously stated, the most secure retreat obtainable. Unlike the 'coon, the opossum rarely makes for its home at such times.

times.

Most people are wont to think of the opossum in its single attribute, that of feigning death, and the common impres-sion prevails that this is its leading charsion prevails that this is its leading characteristic, appealed to on all occasions, and its only mode of defending itself. This is rank injustice to the American marsupial. Possuming is never resorted to until all other ingenious devices fall. I have seen opossums feign death again and again, and feign it so completely that the physiologists might be deceived by it. Negroes may beat it, kick it, cuff it, knock it about, throw it many feet in the air and let it fall heavily to the ground without effecting an apparent muscle quiver or moving of the chest. At such time it is terribly in earnest. One may time it is terribly in earnest. One may time it is terribly in earnest. One may poke it with a sharp knife, plerce it with needles or pins, force open its long, cadaverous jaws to breaking, still will it give forth no outcry or offer any evidence of life. Nothing can be more complete, ut-ter, and thorough than this simulation of death. I recall that upon one occasion I fired off my six-shooter, one barrel after another in quick succession within an another in quick succession, within an inch of the ear of a prostrate, death-feigning 'possum without exciting in it a single impulse of life.

This, however, as I have stated, is its

last court of appeal. Sometimes the 'pos-sum recognizes the law of force, although it is naturally a timid creature, and when it does it fights viciously and desperately, using its sharp little teeth with directness of energy upon the flesh of its assailants. One November night, in the Indian Ridge section of North Carolina, my pack of dogs, four in number, "treed" a 'possum in the hollow stump of a massive oak, and I was somewhat surprised when I found it necessary to use co-ercive argument to compel the canines to enter the cavity. Ordinarily, I should have sought to dislodge the 'possum by means of a pole or by digging, but, having already captured as many as the necessary. already captured as many as the negroes of the party could conveniently carry. I was indifferent to the fate of the occupant of the stump. One by one the four dogs were driven into the fairy quarters of the marsupial, and the four retired igne miniously, with bleeding wounds, the effect being such enforced respect for the little fellow as to cause me to draw off all opposition and leave it free without further molestation. Several times, under peculiar stress, I have seen one of these creatures whip a single dog, but this is the only instance in which it raised su perior to numbers

HIS SPIRIT.

The opossum has somewhat of the spirit in its make-up. While capable of making for itself a very secure nest in a retreat that will escape the eye of the ordinary observen it has no scruple about appr priating that of the gray squirrel for permanent use. One day while passing through an oak forest in quest of squirrels I fired a barrel of my shotgun into a large nest, thinking, as it had fre-quently happened before, to start-to frighten—a mother squirred and her half-grown young from their hiding-place. My astonishment was great, when instead there fell dead at my feet a very large and reasonably formed 'possum. I could not possibly be mistaken as to the builder of possiny be instaken as to the bunder of the nest, because that of the squirrel differs very materially from one con-structed by the 'possum. Indeed, on two other occasions I frightened the latter creatures from nests that had been built by the bushy-tailed rodent, the suspicion in one instance nearly approaching know-ledge that the more recent occupant ad made a m had made a meal of the original owner. With equal indifference to proprietary rights the marsupial will first devour a dam rabbit with her tiny offspring and take complete possession of her burrow. So again, it will hang about the hollow of a 'coon until the latter for reasons of policy or state vacates, when it will promptly claim exclusive ownership, and offers a way set of teath when the holder. offer an ugly set of teeth when the holder of the fee returns. It should be said, of the fee returns. It should be said, however, that in the open the 'possum has no show whatsoever with the 'coon, the latter being able to trounce it easily, and, indeed, crunch its bones without great effort. The possum, as has been his practice from the beginning, interposes strategy against brute force. The raccoon affects a hollow with a narrow orifice, and once the 'possum has taker possession the 'coon may not get beyond the open wide mouth that is presented at

the open wide mouth that is presented at the doorway.

Monkeys and idlots are referred to by many writers as possessing in remarkable degree the faculty of grinning; yet both of these creatures would retire incontinently in an amazingly short time from a contest with the marsupial. To grin like a 'possum is a virtue sought after by every fun-giving Senegambian with a good row of ivery, but his impudence never aspires to successful rivalry. The very long mouth of the opossum and the arrangement of muscles sum and the arrangement of muscles along the line of the jaws enables it not only to show every one of its many teeth, but also to reveal the remotest cavity of its deep-seated throat. When "treed" and its presence is discovered by the hours. "treed" and its presence is discovered by the hunters the grinning operation is promptly begun and does not end until the poor fellow is cast upon the ground by the pursuer. This grin is defiant, the poor fellow is east upon the ground by the pursuer. This grin is defiant threatening, pitiful, pleading, remon-strative by turn and certainly in al changes of passion demonstrative. Ac-companying certain phases of the grinning is an unmistakable hiss, suggesting somewhat that made by the goose and given species of serpents. AS A PET.

AS A PET.

Surprise has often come to me that the intelligence of the opossum has not suggested the idea to people of the North of making a pet of it. It gives forth in its wild state an odor that some people pronounce offensive, although I could never understand this, because to me this bouquet has always, and in all conditions of the creature, been a most grateful one, as, indeed, it has proven to all of my friends and acquaintances. In fact, i as, indeed, it has proven to all of my friends and acquaintances. In fact, I have never seen the charge made outside of works on natural history, the authors of which probably have relied upon less informed persons for their knowledge along this line. In any event, under demerication this odor diminishes in intentity, and in time is scarcely perceptible. In the Southland it is next to impossible to keep one in cantivity very ble. In the Southland it is next to impossible to keep one in captivity very long, because of the weakness of the negroes for 'possum flesh, and a still greater weakness along lines of morality. First and last in my lifetime I have owned probably half a hundred of these pets, and the longest period I was able to keep one intact from the hands of the negroes was about four months. Possibly, I may be unjust of accusing my sable friends of the theft in all cases, yet is was significant that immediately following the disappearance of any one of my pets the grateful odor of fresh-baked 'possum invariably hung about a neighboring negro cabin. In captivity the marsuplal soon becomes cheerful, contented, boring negro cabin. In captivity the mar-supial soon becomes cheerful, contented, happy, playful, and tricksome, readily adjusting itself to the changed condition, and making the very best of it. A com-panion of its kind will add to the cheeri-ness and tricksomeness of the creature, but when solitary, even, it will quickly learn to attach itself to a human companion and find pleasure in that company. I never knew one to display, visibly, temper, or use its teeth upon a keeper, although I have witnessed again and again the teasing spirit in visitors that seem so inseparable from thoughtless humanity when brought into touch with cantive brutes. captive brutes.

HIS INTELLIGENCE.

The intelligence of the opossum seems to suggest to it the futility of resistance to a man tyrant, and it accepts pokes in the ribs, slaps, and other brutalities with stoical equanimity. The pet above referred to that remained longest in my possession was a very fine young male which I had captured, and to which I gave the name of Nero. Within a week I released it from its pen, giving it the liberty of the land, and, indeed, practically the privilege to roam where it pleased. Before the end of the second week it had found my chamber, and week it had found my chamber, and thenceforth occupied a small wood chest thenceforth occupied a small wood chest near the fireplace hearth. Its presence would have been entirely unobjectionable except for a habit it acquired of visiting the bed during my sleep and projecting its cold, clammy snout into my yielding neck. It seemed to me that it really sought to adjust itself to my habits, for sought to adjust itself to my master, in time it learned to spend a greater part of the night in sleep, this being a complete change, of course, in its own practice, and much of the day was given to tice, and much of the day was given to following me about in my wanderings and visitations. I did not scruple to take it to the big wood with me, leaving it free to climb trees and wander over the ground at pleasure! Sometimes it would disappear for a half hour or more, but apparently kept me well in sight, because when I would begin to grow uneasy it would put in an appearance, now running ahead of me as a young dog in good huahead of me as a young dog in good humor and returning for a caress, or again ambling along by my slife; or falling a few feet in the rear.

Very early in its captivity it made friends with two large dogs of my animal aggregation, and formed quite a fraternal attachment for a big Maltese cat, romping with the latter, following it upon the boustop and in the irees and on the

the housetop and in the trees and on the fences, dividing meals with it, and sleep-ing decorously by its side. There was no difficulty in teaching it the sinfulness no difficulty in teaching it the sinfulness of stealing when it was observed, but out of one's sight it was one of the most incorrigible pilferers on the face of the earth. Pampered and fed as it was, with all the dainties conceivable, its penchant for fowl never could be overcome, and to the very last it was an eyesore to my mother because of its frequent forays upon the chicken-pen, where it displayed rare choice in the selection of the fattest and plumpest pullets or the best of the growing spring chickens, Nero best of the growing spring chickens, Nero was an apt pupil, acquiring two-score or more pronounced tricks in the short period of its captivity, the one it enjoyed most being the running after and fetching a rubber ball that was thrown for its amusement. It was taught to turn a somerset, walk some few paces upon its hind legs, leap over bars, draw a little wason, respond to demands to upon its hind legs, leap over bars, draw a little wagon, respond to demands to turn or bear to right or left, and many other tricks that brought infinite delight to neighboring children. So intelligent, affectionate, and devoted was it, that I was near to crying when, one morning it was missed from its place, and I was compelled to exercise a forbearance impressurable when I discovered that my measurable when I discovered that my old negro, upon whom I had showered benefits, was the thief who had forn him from my home. Reflecting that the huge lips of the Senegambian had been made oily with the fat of my pet, I do not understand to this day how I refrained from applying a horsewhip to the shoulders of the miserable, ungrateful wretch, COOKING HIM.

A peculiarity of the opossum is that like the hibernating animals, it eather the hibernating animals, it gathers a great amount of fatness towards the approach of winter; but herein the similari-ty ends, because it may be found any night during the cold season gathering the fruit of the persimmon or wandering the fruit of the persimmon or wandering in the woods in search of nutriment of some kind. It is in these months only that it is palateable, or that it is hunted. With the approach of spring the fatty deposit begins to disappear, and it becomes lean and flabby at the mating period. The young are born in an immature state, from thirteen to eighteen in number and are immediately transferred. ber, and are immediately transferred to the pouch of the mother, where they re-main about four weeks, when they make short excursions into the outer world, gradually extending them for about a week, and then desert the sheltering pocket altogether. When they first take lodgment they are scarcely an inch in length, the tall included, but when they emerge they are nearly as large as rats session once giving birth to as many as eighteen, all of them healthy and vigorous. I cannot speak so advisedly as to the rearing of the young for reasons stated above, the unconscionable appetits of the negro for 'possum flesh proving a barrier to more extended knowledge. The little ones, which are blind and deaf as well when born, are very active, and will nave freely around upon the floor if detached from the mother, and once having a place in the pouch they grow rapidly. This prolificness of the opossum would seem a necessity from the epossum would seem a necessity from the merci-less warfare that is made upon the ani-mal by the hunters, who are urged to activity by the memory of pleas-ing appetite. A distinguished clergy-man is credited with having said; "Doubtless, God might have made a more delicious fruit than the strawherry, but doubtless, God never did," and the same compliment may be paid to the flesh of the opossum. It will be understood that there is cooking and cooking. There are there is cooking and cooking. There are many cooks who would spoil any sort of broth, and I have never found a Yankee who had the least conception of how a possum should be cooked. In the first place, the sweet-potato is a delectable accompaniment, the rich and juicy flavor of the latter imparting itself to the gamy flesh, which in turn com-municates of its infinite richness to the yam. The 'possum must be baked to a turn, and frequently basted in the cookcrisp. There is fine art in the amount of pepper and salt to be used. In fact, much depends upon the manner of kill-ing and dressing, and the interval be-tween the latter and the depositing of the carcass in the old Dutch oven, the mod-ern appliances for cooking being the murder of the flavor. So, too, the art of serving the dish plays a not unim-portant part, memory suggesting just now that I always found the dish most grateful after a protracted night hunt in search of the creatures for future feasts. search of the creatures for future feasts. Given an appetite whetted by I drudges through resin-scented woods, companied with the excitement of companied with the excitement of the chase, and the success attending on it, terminating in a hot, savory dish of the marsuplal prepared by an old, experienced negress, and I defy the best chef in the world to present a triumph of his skill that can equal this in deliciousness. The ambrosia served the gods upon Olympus was a palled morsel in comparison. Hail and welcome the 'posture living and the 'noscended's deliciousness. living and the 'possum dead under conditions last recited.

Forest Fires Raging.

PITTSBURG, PA., September 24.—A special to the Times from Cumberland, Md., says: The mountains on both sides Md., says: The mountains on both sides of Bean's Cove, Bedford county, Pa., ten miles from here, are on fire, and the farmers are fighting the flames. Great forest-fires are also raging in the forests around Davis, W. Va., endangering that town, and an immense quantity of bark owned by the United States Leather Company's tannery. The superintendent of the leather company, with a large force of men, is fighting the flames.

Cuban Insurgent Reverses.

HABANA, September 24.—Reports have been received here that Colonel Hernandes, commanding the government troops in the Sagua District, overtook a band of rebels on the plantation of Carldad and routed them. Fursuing them, he attacked them again at Libano, killing three, taking three prisoners, and capturing a quantity of horses, ammunition, etc.

etc.
It is also reported from Espiritu Santo
officially that Lieutenant-Colonels Navas
and Cavastany, with their combined
forces, had a battle with the rebels at
Olaleita on September Zist, in which many
rebels were killed.

CUTTERS FOR SPAIN.

NINE OF THEM TO CRUISE ALONG THE COAST OF CUBA.

Their Armament to Be of a Very

NEW YORK, September 24.-Within a month nine American-built steam-cutters, under the Spanish flag, will be cruising on the north coast of Cuba,

The late Admiral Manuel Delgado Parejo sent Lieutenant-Commander Trianna to this city on special duty, and the orders for these cutters were placed very quietly. Not until they were completed did the fact of their ownership become known. The last of the nine were shipped to Cuba a very few days ago.

The lengths of the cutters vary from 60 to 70 feet, and their speed from eleven to fourteen miles an hour. Their average draught is 4 feet. Their crews, numbering from fifteen to twenty, all men from the Spanish navy, will be officered by men of known ability. They are built especially for rapid inshore work. Their armament will be of a very destructive type, including American gatting guns. Smugglers of contraband of war will be their prey.

The Berenger pontoon service and the

American cutters, in all thirty-nine cut-ters and floats, will add immensely to the tiveness of the Spanish naval force With these and the double lines of war-

vessels cruising, it is declared that all outside relief will be cut off from the rebels now in the central part of East-

"Swenting" Bees.

"Sweating" Bees.

(London Spectator.)

Mr. S. Simmins, the author of "A Modern Bee Farm," notes that "bees are never idle except from sheer force of circumstances; when it is cold in winter, they simply cluster in one compact mass; but with each returning spell of milder weather this living ball expands, and many of the insects travel to the most distant sealed combs of honey, and, commencing on the outer surface of each outside comb, the whole of the honey there stored is carried to those cells in close contact with the cluster." The bee code of industry will not even permit it to begin work at the easiest end. If this mental attitude were constant it would baffle the aims of the modern bee-owner who seeks to provide his insects with the means to do more work in less time. They might refuse to use the labor-saving apparatus provided, on the ground that hard work was their summum bonom. But the bees are not so perverse. On the contrary, they welcome any contrivance which will enable them to do the maximum of work, and then, disdaining the temptation of shorter hours, use it for the maximum of time, day by day.

The "personnel" of the hive being thus disposed, the object of the practical beeowher is first to obtain the largest number of workers before the honey-bearing flowers blossom, and then to set them to work in the factory on improved principles. This is the point at which most bee-keeping manuals begin, after references to the mental solace derived from (London Spectator.)

the pursuit, and encouraging tables of profits made by the sale of honey, Large "stocks," or single communities, are produced by the best queen-bees. At what age the queen is "best" is a point not agreed on by the authorities. Mr. Simmins holds that none should be kept after the second summer. Queen-bees are a special product, provided as an article of separate purchase, and are often "mailed" from America in cages, theugh we learn that "recently, through the chortsightedness or the prejudice of the postal authorities, many foreign queens have been returned to the senders." The travelling cages of queen-bees are among the minor appliances of the new bee-machinery. They are made in three compartments, one of which is ventilated for a saloon in hot weather, one less airy in case of cooler temperature, while a third contains the food-supply.

The "sweating" process begins with the

may be gathered from the area of flowering plants sown to keep them busy.
Seventy-five acres of ground, planted
with white clover, borage, or sanfoin,
will occupy 100 hives profitably for the
three months of June, July, and August.
This the bees are expected to work in
addition to the flowers which grow naturally in a rural district. To prevent
loitering, the crops are planted near the
hives. The return of the honey due from
the bees is calculated as accurately as

nives. The return of the honey due from the bees is calculated as accurately as was the return due from farm-stock under the ancient manor system. Clover and sanfoin should produce ten pounds of honey per acre each fine day; and as they flower twice, and remudn in full blossom for a week at the time, the seventy-five acres, if properly worked by the bees, are expected to yield more than 10.000 pounds of honey.

The triumph of the "sweater's" art is in inducing the bees to fetch this enormous quantity of honey, without neglecting the arrangements for storing it in the hives. The honey being liquid, must be bottled, and the bees will only put it in comb of the exact size and texture which instinct has taught them. Comb-making is also much lighter and safer work than honey-gathering, with its dangers from storms, wasps, and birds. Young bees are generally told off for the purpose, while their elders go a-field. But conscience will not allow a bee to stay at home if he is not wanted to work. The bee-keeper, therefore, makes it his business to provide ready-made foundations for the cells, stamped in real wax, and of the natural size. He also removes the combs full of honey, spins them around in a tin churn, and replaces them in the hive empty—a hint which the bees take as an invitation to refill them. The ancient taskmaster said: "Ye are idle, ye shail have no straw." The modern beer says: "Ye are industrious, here is the straw ready chopped." The bees seem delighted to make the most of the opportunities so thoughtfully provided for them. By using the mechanically-stamped "foundations" for their cells, they make a more perfect and symmetrical comb than is often constructed without help. The bottoms being regular, no-"crooked comb" is ever built upon it. The size stumped is also uniformly that of worker-cells; thus there is no room for drone cells, producing bees which cannot be "sweated," or made profitable in any way. The yielde results of the system are a vastly increased store of honey—nearly 1,000 pounds were re

when and so far no sign of "overstrain" among the bees.

When the system has had another twenty years of trial it may possibly show certain strains developing a tendency to forget how to construct combfoundation, just as some breeds of fowls are forgetting how to hatch their eggs. We cannot suggest an improvement in the architecture of the cells, because they are mechanically perfect in economy of material and space. But the readiness with which the honey-bee has accepted and incorporated in its comb the materials supplied by man suggests the possibility of further experiments to determine how far its mechanical instinct is capable of modification.

The Codiscoverer of Uranus. (Temple Bar.)

(Temple Bar.)

It was at Cambridge that I had the privilege of meeting the late Lowndean professor of astronomy. John Couch Adams, the discoverer of the planet Neptune. It was about five years ago. He was then alling, suffering from insomnia: still, his dark-brown eyes were peculiarly bright, and his complexion ruddy. He generally wore a black velvet cap, and looked like a living picture by one of the old masters. What struck memost was the extraordinary humility, almost self-effacement, of this intellectual giant, who was regarded as the greatest astronomer England has had since Newton. When quite a young man Adams applied himself to the investigation of the irregularities of the motion of Uranus, in order to find out whether they might be attributed to the actions of some unknown planet. Simultaneously with the Frenchman, Leverrier, Adams showed

exactly where a hitherto unknown object was to be found when the telescopes were turned to that part of the heavens. In general conversation, of course, Professor Adams never alluded to his astronomical feat. He was singhiarly gentle, simple, and deeply religious. He seemed to project about him an atmosphere of purity and elevated thought. There were family prayers every morning at the observatory. It was Professor Adams who read the Bibie and said the prayers. His singularly reverential attitude, carnestness, and almost childlike belief were striking in these days of agnosticism and atheism. His humble-mindedness stood out also in strong relief among the pushing, log-rolling communities. His wife read aloud to him. Professor Adams delighted in good novels, taking the deepest interest in the characters, just as if they were real living people. Of an evening he played bezique or halma. Among his most intimate friends were Sir George Gabriel Stokes and the late Professor Cayley.

I never heard Professor Adams utter a disparaging word against any one; his pupils were devoted to him, he was patient, encouraging, and kind. Though of a cheerful disposition, he sometimes was depressed at not being able (from iil health) to proceed with his high mathematical problems. He was then engaged upon the perturbations of the planet Venus.

New Anecdotes of Sedan. (Berlin Letter.)

The Militar-Wochenblatt publishes some new historical documents in connection with the capitulation of Sedan. The most interesting are extracts from the diary of the then Lieutenant-Colonel Bronsart von Schellendorff, who was afterwards Prussian Minister of War, and a report taken from the shorthand notes of Captain von Nostiz, of the negotiations on the conditions for the capitulation of Sedan, which took place at Donchery during the night of September 1, 1790. The third document is Count Bismarck's report to the King on the negotiations. This document, however, is not new, as it was published almost in extenso by the Official Gazette, on September 12, 1870. The diary of Lieutenant-Colonel Schellendorff gives an account of his ride into Sedan in order to summon the French to surrender. On his way thither he was informed that meanwhile the white flag had been hoisted. When he arrived at Sedan he obtained entrance without difficulty, and requested to be conducted to the general commanding-in-chief. To his question whether the Emperor was in Sedan or not no definite answer was given. The diary describes the wild confusion which reigned within the walls, in spite of which Lieutenant-Colonel von Scheilendorff was well received, and some of the men recruited from German districts called out to him. "Dear countryman?" while only one surfy voice uttered the words, "Ditesnous ce que veut cet homme-la."

Again he asked to be enabled to execute his commission, whereupon an officer said to him, "Are you a Bayarian, sir?" Herr von Scheilendorff replied, "No, I am a Prussian, and I come in the name of the King, of Prussia." "Good, good." said the Franch officer, and went away. A moment later a general came up, and conducted him as a sealed letter, which had evidently been written before his arrival. This the Emperor first requested him the Emperor first requested him to deliver to the King, but changed his mind, and intrusted this commission, as is well known, to General Reille.

As to the meeting between King William and t

in the matter of artiflery, for the organization of which branch of the French service he felt himself personally responsible. His artillery was much worse than ours, which was admirable. I could see quite plainly the leave-taking between the King and the Emperor. They shook hands warmly, and were both much affected. The Emperor wiped away his tears several times. He also took a hearty leave of the Crown-Prince. "September 3d.—At 9 o'clock the Emperor Napoleon passed on his way into captivity). General Mottke and Count lissmarek looked out of the window, and the former said. Volla une dynastic qui s'en va. After the dinner, at which the King drank to the health of Room, Mottke, Bismarck, and the army, "General von Stosch and I came to the conclusion that Mottke was really a great man. "He offered a pinch of souff to Count Bismarck, whereupon I made a small pun, 'Volla la prise de Sedan."

The shorthand notes of Captain von Nostiz contain little that is not already known as to the negotiations for the capitulation of Sedan the rollitical observa-

Nostiz contain little that is not already known as to the negotiations for the capitulation of Sedan, the political observations of Count Bismarck as to the Franco-German relations before the war, and his views as to the necessity of securing as far as possible against future wars the unyielding military sternness of Count von Molike, and the courageous though unsuccessful attempts of General Wimpfen to obtain better conditions for his countrymen. In reply to the repeated exhortations of the French General that care should be taken not to offend the French sense of honor, the Chancellor said: "To be made prisoners of war after fighting bravely against a superior force cannot offend a military sense of honor. • • Whatever may be the conditions of the capitulation. France will declare war against us as soon as she feels herself strong enough or believes that she has allies. We wish to live in peace, and, therefore, material guarantees are necessary to prevent the renewal of such a war."

Death of Sir John Moore.

(Battles of the Mineteenth Century.)
Sir John rode up to the Forty-scond,
and, learning that their ammunition was
expended, said: "You have still your
payonets, my brave Highlanders-rememer Egypt!" and, with a yell, the Black
Watch rushed forward once more. While
sir John Moore was watching the strugele, a round shot struck him on the left watch rushed forward once more. While Sir John Moore was watching the struggle, a round shot struck him on the left breast and dashed him out of the saddle, but, without a groan, he sat up, resting on his arm, and for a moment gazed intently at the Highlanders driving the French steadily back. Then, as a happy look came into his handsome face, the staff crowded 'round him, and saw the shocking state of his wound. The shoulder was completely shattered, and the left arm hung by a piece of skin; the ribs over the heart were broken, and bared of flesh, while the muscles of the breast were torn into shreds and strips, among which the hilt of the sword had got entangled. 'I had rather it should got out of the field with', said the dying hero, as Hardinge made an attempt to disengage it. Men of the Forty-second, and Guards carried him tenderly in a blanket, taking an hour to reach Corunna, the General Brequently making them halt and turn him round. Like Wolfe at Quebec his anxlety was for the success of the army, and, like Wolfe, his last moments were cheered by the knowledge that we had beaten the French, Soult had fallen back, General Baird was badly wounded, and Hope carried out Sir John's original plans for the embarkation. Yi hope the people of England will be satisfied," said the dying man. "I hope my dear country will do me justice. Oh, Anderson?" he whispered to his friend, "you will see my friends at home; tell them everything—my mother—" then he broke down.

Sir John Franklin. (Blackwood's Magazine.)

(Blackwood's Magazine.)

It was in Warwickshire that I made the acquaintance of Sir John Franklin, while I was still quite a child. The stout, good-humored gentleman, whose image appears before me as I write his name, is associated in my mind with an event in which took the keenest interest—a total eclipse of the sun; but the amusement afforded by a rather absurd incident connected with it I am afraid engrossed my childish mind more than all the scientific explanations of the phenomenon which Sir John Franklin was so well qualified to give.

explanations of the phenomenon which Sir John Franklin was so well qualified to give.

In those primitive days it was held that the best mode of witnessing the obscuration of the sun was to watch it through pleces of smoked glass, with which we were all duly provided when we sallied forth to an open piece of ground, where nothing impeded the view. The result was that in the course of a few minutes the noses of every one present were severely blackened—unconsclously to themselves—and the appearance of the whole scientific party was irresistibly comic.

Sir John Franklin appeared then so full of life and energy and high spirits that it was difficult to think of him afterward as the worn-out suffering hero of that last fatal voyage, which held the country in suspense as to his fate during a period cruelly long and trying to his wife, and to all who had relations among his companions in the ice-bound vessels. One of my cousins was of the number, and I well remember the sensation in his home when some of the relics of the disastrous expedition, afterward brought back, were identified as having belonged to him.

DOUBLY-FATAL DUEL

TWO YOUNG GEORGIA FARMERS KILL EACH OTHER.

They Quarrelled About a Young

SAVANNAH, GA., September 24.-A Thomasville special says: News has reached this city of a very bloody impromptu duel between C. W. Ragan and M. T. Shaw, two young white men living near Meigs. The fight occurred across the line, in Mitchell county,

Each man fired five shots at his antagonist, four shots taking effect in each Rugan was killed on the spot, while Shaw was mortally wounded, and died to-day.

It is said the young men quarrelled over a girl. They had gone to see the girl together, and were returning home when the quarrel took place. They got out of their buggy and fought it out. The young men belonged to the respectable farming

Spanlards Guard American Property.

BALTIMORE. MD., September 24.—
Officers of the steamship Westgate, at this port from Cuba, report that Spanish troops have been stationed, and that stockades will be crected at the property of the Spanish-American Ore Company, in and near Dalguri. While the Westgate was loading her carge of ore at Dalguri Spanish solders put in an appearance, and two Spanish men-of-war actived in the harbor. The troops surrounded the mines, and placed men on guard along the railroad to the wharf in Dalguri, and on the wharf property.

The mines of the Spanish-American Company are American property, and \$1,00,00 was spent to develop them. They are situated in a country thick with fillibusters, who have already stolen a steamship-load of explosives, which had to be replaced by a shipment from Baltimore. Spanlards Guard American Property.

Oscar Wilde's Bankruptey.

LONDON, September 24.—The examina-ion of Oscar Wilde in bankruptcy pro-ceedings was to have taken place to-day.

Court granted.

In moving for the adjournment counsel stated that Wilde's indebtedness amounted to 15,581. Toward the liquidation of this sum his friends had subscribed fl.509, and the remainder would be made up so that 29 shillings in the pound would be paid.

Dr. Robert Batteys Dying.

ATLANTA, September 24.—A special to the Constitution from Rome, Ga., says that Dr. Robert Batteys, the noted sur-geon, is dying. He has been unconscious

geon, is dying. He has been unconscious two days.

Few names stand higher in the world in the practice of medicine and surgery than Dr. Robert Batteys. As originator of the famous operation that now bears his name, for the relief of women in certain maladies, he suddenly leaped into world-wide fame. He has been successful in a number of difficult surgical operations.

Rose's Cup Challenge,

NEW YORK, September 24.—The fol-lowing cablegram has been received at the New York Yacht Club House: "NEWMARKET, September 24,

"NEWMARKET, September 24,
"J. V. S. Eddie, Secretary Yacht Club,
New York:
"Your message received. I confirm personal challenge sent through Royal Victoria Club in my name. Confirmatory
letter will follow immediately, and I make no restrictions as to conditions, "CHARLES ROSE."

Who Did the Shooting?

ST. LOUIS, MO., September 21.—A special to the Chronicle from Dallas, Tex., says that Katle Carter, of St. Louis, was shot and mortally wounded at 1 o'clock this morning, and Sam F. Wilson, with whom she was, is dead, with a builet through his body. The woman was conscious, and said that Wilson did not do the shooting, and that a third party must have committed the crime. The couple came here from Kansas City last Sunday.

Gold for Greenbacks Offered.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., September 24.— The national banks of Philadelphia hav-offered to depost \$1.590,000 in gold with the United States Sub-Treasury in this city in exchange for greenbacks. Sub-Trea-surer Righer stated to-day that negotia tions are pending, and he thinks it probable that the money will be accepted be the government in a few days. He will not disclose the names of the banks.

Another Mine-Work Suspension.
TERRE HAUTE, IND., September 24.—
There is another suspension of mining operations in the Clinton district, the operators having ordered the men to take their tools, with the intention of closing the mines until the wage-scale question in the State is finally settled. The operators wanted the men to work on the minerun basis, and they refused to do so.
There are about 500 men in the district.

NEW YORK, September 24.—The big six-story brick storage-warehouse at 305 and 307 east Sixty-first street, owned by A. B. Yetter, was burned this afternoon, causing a loss of between \$40,000 and \$50,000 Adjoining property suffered to the extent of \$35,000, bringing the total loss up to about \$75,000.

France and Madagascar.

PARIS, September 24.—The Figaro says that President Faure has summoned General Desberdes to the Palace of the Elysee to confer with him in regard to the military operations in Madagascar.

M. Granddier, president of the Madagascar Committee, has advised the Cabinet to establish an effective protectorate over the Island of Madagascar, totally debarring foreign interference.

Paper-Mill and Dwelling Destroyed. NEWBURGH, N. Y., September 24.-F. R. Waller & Sons's paper-mill and an adjoining dwelling-house were burned yesterday. The mill had not been in operation for several weeks, being closed for repairs, and the cause of the fire is un known, Loss, \$125,000, partially insured.

> Names, Not Numbers. (Blackwood's Magazine.)

Chlackwood's Magazine.)

Thirty years ago a subaltern in the English service was expected to know every man in his company by name after he had served six months with it. We all know how invaluable it is to speak to another by name. "Step shorter, Atkins!" "Lower your butt, Jones!" "March on that bush, Robinson!" appeal to the men directly. "Step shorter, No. 4 from the left!" "Lower your butt, there!" "March on that bush, you in the centre!" appeal to none in particular, and half a dozen heads will be turned round to see whom the officer means. It is irritating in civil life to be spoken of as Mr. Thingummy or Mr. What's-your-name, and soldlers have the same feelings as civillans.

The subaltern of to-day is expected to know as much as the subaltern of thirty years ago. The Queen's regulations say: "Subaltern officers, on joining, are to provide themselves with a nominal roll of their charge (half the company), and are, as soon as possible, to make themselves econainted with the disposition.

as soon as possible, to make themselves acquainted with the disposition, character, age, and service of each of their men."



KNOWING HOW TO 50 WHAT WE WANT TO DO KEEPS THE BUSINESS OF

earnestly alive to your best

est. Crowds come to this star because of its money-saving advantages. No store equal in low price standards can be found in the section, if in this country. The autumn stock gathering ha made a readiness of the highest at.

tainment of excellence. Where else such wide range of choosing-where else such tree economy? Even the most incapen-

sive are tasteful. Help hints from the Silk STOCK to guide you. 'Tis the immense selling that makes our great buying possible.

All-Silk Gros-Grain Silk, in satis-figured designs, to be a Satin-figured designs, to be seld in Sec. a yard.
Heavy Satin-Damask Black investig for Sec. the St. 40 grade.
Beautiful Chameleon Shirt-Walst Sing for Sec.
72 pieces Taffeta Shirt-Walst Sinks in two pieces alike, \$1 to \$1.25 grades for Tec. a yard.
33 pieces Real Hand-Made Chrasen every known light and desired.

produced, isc. grade, for Yard-Wide China Hand-Silks, 75c. grade, for 45

From 10 to 11 o'clock, 256 yards Heavy Black \$1.36

Satin Duchess for 750, a yard, Limit of one dress to a customer. If every woman who shops a Richmond would know the econom of buying DRESS GOODS it this store the present enlarge

stock would be far too small. At 25c., Beautiful New Fancy Went

50c, a yard. At 59c, a yard, New Bougle every color mixture, made 81 a yard.
At 58c, a yard-1 1-2-Yard-Wide All-Wei
Navy Storm Serge, costing fl.E. a yard
At 23c, a yard-All-Wool Coveracion
costing wholesale 50c, a yard
At 25c, a yard-8-Inch-Wile All-Wei
French Imperial Serge, costing me
than 50c to invarian

Printed Flannellettes in new ar handsome printing. No house w know of sells the same grade to less than 121/2c. It seems the im-possible—Cohen's price 81/2c, a yard.

Every shade of Eiderdown Flan. nel is here for 25c, a yard.

From 9:30 to ro:30 : Black All Wool Storm Serge, extra weigh for winter and fail wear, full 3 inches wide, for 25c. a yard. On dress limit.

Price and look through the Black Goods. Compare prices with thes of other houses.

HANDKERCHIEFS.

The range of value for this count Ladies' Embroidered Handkerch from 20 to 75c; Cohen's price 1 choice is 25c.
The range of prices for these Lines a
Embroidered Handkerchiefs to 16
20c., Cohen's price for the chace is

The White Goods Wonder-616 buys Plain India Linen worth up

White, Checked, and Plaid Nainsook, worth up to 16 2-30. English Longcloths and Soft-Fin-

ished Nainsooks, worth up to 250., DRUGGISTS' SUNDRIES.

Best Palm Soap, 35c. a dozen e value, 50c.
Castile Soap, 2 1-2c. a cake.
FROM 9 TO 10 O'CLOCK:
Peakes of Buttermilk Soap for 5c.
Colgate's Rum and Quinine Hair32c. a bottle, value 50c.
All odors of Satchet-Powder, 10c.
value 55c.

All odors of Satchet-Powder, Nevalue, 25c.
Large bottle of Ammonia for 7c.
NOTIONS

Key-Chains, 5c. each, value, 25c
SPECIAL—A manufacturer's line of Scissors made of the steel, 25c, real value, 50 and 5c.
Mourning-Pins, 1c. a box.
FROM 10 TO 12 O'CLOUK.
Combination Needle-Hooks, contain papers of English Needles.
Pins, and Embroidery—and Do Needles, 3c. each, regular pine, 25c.
Vell-Pin Card, containing colors Black-head pins, 4c. éach, value
Good Ruffled Garter-Elastic, al 5c. a yard, value 12 1-2c.
ONYX TABLES.— Special

ONYX TABLES .- Special (

50 Real-Gold-Plated Onyx-Top Table selected slabs, of onyx-you'll say in are cheap when you see them price for to-day only. \$3.25.

A lot of fancy Waste Baskets worth up to soc., for 19c. 500 KINDERGARTEN LUNC KETS, AT NINE CENTS. 6-Foot Step-Ladder, made from h wood, malleable-iron castings, of \$1.25, for 89. \$ Gold-Finished Banquet-Lamp embossed head, open-work has ranted centre-draft burners, \$2.75.

LARGE LINE OF BANQUETA some with Cupid centre, of onyx columns; special for to \$3.59, \$12.90, and \$1.50. The "Perilla" Cut-Glass Wat-regular size, extra-heavy, cutting, cut-star bottom, note clear, fine polish, actual \$5.50 \$2.50.

E.S.
DINNER-SETS, FOR TO-DAY
Extra-Pine Carlsbad-Chibs
Sets, specially selected dead
handsomest Carlsbad pattern
new "Verona" shape, the deas dainty as any Prench east
quality is superb, each set
100 pieces complete for

quality is superb, each 100 pieces, complete, for to-day only, \$13. 100 dozen Plated Teaspoons b be sold as bought at one quarte regular price-gc. a set of six.

regular price—9c, a set of six.

TABLESPOONS TO MATCH, AT SCENTS PER SET.

Large-Size 2-Quart Heavy-Pieced Dr pers, 5c.
Heavy-Threaded Basting-Spoons, 2c.
Full-Roll Toilet-Paper, ic.
Fancy Cake-Cutters, ic.
250 dozen Thin Crystal Table-Tumber always sold at 31 dozen, while tist last, at 33c.
190 Heavy Crystal Water-Bottles, reficult-neck, value 31, price cut to 2c.
Legant Eaby-Carriages, updottered 5 fine carriage-cloth, former price 56 for \$4.15.

-Quart Mottled-Granite-Covered Sampans, at 25c.
-Duart Mottled-Granite Tea- or Coffee

pans, at Mc.
3-Quart Mottled-Granite Tea- or Coffee
Pots, 49c.
Silverine Tea-Spoons, ic.
Cuspadores, painted in all colors, 50c.
White Bone-Handle Table-Knives Mc.

each.
Bixby's Shoe-Polish, to-day, ic.
1-Burner Iron-Bottom Oil-Stoves, is.
1-Burner Size Willow Clothes-Hampers, id.
10x13 Black Sheet-Iron Rossing-Pas

Dennison's Crepe Paper-all colors---to-day 18c. roll.

THE COHEN CO.